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The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Identical letters dated 12 February 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

During his visit to the occupied Syrian Golan on 31 January 2014, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Israeli entity made statements that reflected an insolent approach to the events in Syria and utter disdain for all United Nations resolutions on ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and all other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. He called for Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights to be settled within the framework of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and the events in Syria, and stated that that comprehensive deal must include an understanding between Israel, the international community and, first and foremost, the United States of America, that the Golan was an integral part of the State of Israel. Mr. Liberman claimed that, because of the security concerns relating to Israel's ability to defend the north of the country, the international community should recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

It appears that Israel, the occupying Power, is not content merely to provide direct support for armed terrorist groups in Syria, but now deludes itself that it can exploit its support for the terrorist war against Syria to realize its expansionist aspirations and legitimize its occupation of the Syrian Golan, thereby blatantly disregarding all of the authoritative international resolutions on ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981).

Those statements compel us to emphasize that, politically, legally and morally, it is unacceptable that Israel should be allowed to persist in its contemptuous refusal to implement United Nations resolutions on ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the other occupied Arab territories, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981). We remind concerned parties that, in resolution 497 (1981), the Security

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Council affirmed that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without legal effect, a stance that the General Assembly has reaffirmed annually in relevant resolutions. The most recent one, resolution 68/84, states that Israel has not yet complied with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 is null and void and without legal effect. It calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to rescind that decision. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 68/17, the General Assembly demands once more that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Forty-seven years have passed since Israel occupied the Syrian Golan. Hundreds of authoritative international resolutions have been adopted demanding an end to the occupation and to Israel's racist and inhuman policies, intensive settlement-building activities and systematic killings of civilians in the occupied Arab territories. The resolutions have condemned Israel's daily repressive practices and its blatant violations of all international instruments. Nevertheless, Israel continues to ignore all international resolutions and demands. Indeed, Mr. Liberman's statement underscores Israel's flagrant and growing disdain for Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Protected by its supporters on the Security Council, Israel continues to disregard international law, and does so with impunity.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic draws the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to those inflammatory statements and the concomitant hostile practices. It calls upon the United Nations, and particularly the Security Council, to take the necessary action to ensure compliance with its resolutions and prevail on Israel to end its occupation of the Syrian Golan and withdraw to the line of 4 June 1967. Syria reiterates that the United Nations continues to treat the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan as a routine matter and takes no action to enforce Security Council resolutions. This perpetuates the anomalous situation that prevails in our region, and undermines the credibility of the United Nations as a whole and its resolutions, strengthening the position of those who accuse the Organization of double standards in its dealings with the region and regional issues.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 52, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mazen **Adi**
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.